



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

MAR 29 2013

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
51 Monroe Street, Suite 507  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Representative Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter of February 5, 2013 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of your constituents regarding potential health concerns related to planned construction of a gasoline distribution facility in Wheaton, Maryland. Specifically, you raised a concern that this facility will be in violation of the recently revised air quality standard for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

EPA does not expect the siting of a single emissions source on the scale of a gasoline dispensing facility to significantly jeopardize the ability of the entire PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment area to meet the PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). For highway and transit projects that are approved or funded by the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration, including projects that could have a regionally significant impact or would otherwise impact the NAAQS, there are means to evaluate the project to ensure that it does not degrade the area's ability to meet the NAAQS. However, these requirements do not apply to the construction of a gasoline distribution facility, since the addition of a single gasoline dispensing facility of this size would not directly or indirectly cause an increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursor emissions in sufficient quantities to jeopardize the area's ability to otherwise attain the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

Under separate cover, EPA will be addressing your concerns regarding potential health effects related to volatile organic compounds and toxic air pollutants associated with siting of a new gasoline dispensing facility near residences and a school.

Enclosed please find additional background on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area attainment status for fine particulates. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mrs. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison, at 215-814-2068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn M. Garvin".

Shawn M. Garvin  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure